

Remarks

Claims 1-6 and 10-15 are pending in the application. Claims 1-5 are allowed. Claims 7-9 are cancelled. Claims 6 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 4,395,925 (Gaus). Claims 6 and 10-15 are rejected under U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,634,980 (Ziemer).

Corrections to the Drawings

The enclosed drawing Replacement Sheet is submitted for replacement of sheet 8. In Figure 8a, the reference number 772 erroneously appears twice: once correctly with a reference line to the interconnecting member connecting sun gear member 722 and sun gear member 742, and once erroneously without a reference line. The erroneous appearance of reference number 772 has been removed on the Replacement Sheet. No new matter is presented on the Replacement Sheet.

Section 102(b) Rejections

Claim 6 is amended to require:

a first interconnecting member continuously interconnecting said first member of said first planetary gear set with said first member of said second planetary gear set; *wherein said first member of said first planetary gear set is not continuously connected with any other member of any of said planetary gear sets other than said first member of said second planetary gear set; wherein said first member of said second planetary gear set is not continuously connected with any other member of any of said planetary gear sets other than said first member of said first planetary gear set;*

a second interconnecting member continuously interconnecting said second member of said first planetary gear set with said first member of said third planetary gear set; *wherein said second member of said first planetary gear set is not continuously connected with any other member of*

any of said planetary gear sets other than said first member of said third planetary gear set; wherein said first member of said third planetary gear set is not continuously connected with any other member of any of said planetary gear sets other than said second member of said first planetary gear set;

a third interconnecting member continuously interconnecting said second member of said second planetary gear set with said second member of said third planetary gear set; wherein said second member of said second planetary gear set is not continuously connected with any other member of any of said planetary gear sets other than said second member of said third planetary gear set; wherein said second member of said third planetary gear set is not continuously connected with any other member of any of said planetary gear sets other than said second member of said second planetary gear set; . . . (emphasis added)

The Examiner finds that Gaus discloses:

a transmission having an input shaft (3), an output shaft (12), a first (8, 18), second (11) and third (14) planetary gear sets having first, second and third members, the input shaft being continuously connected to a member (6) of the gear sets, the output shaft being continuously connected to a member (20-22) of the gear sets, a first continuous connection between the first member (15) of the first gear set and the first member (16) of the second gearset, a second continuous connection between the second member (20) of the first gear set and a first member (22) of the third gear set, a third continuous connection between the second member (25) of the second gear set and a second member (26) of the third gear set and seven torque transmitting mechanisms (Figure 2) being engaged in combinations of two to establish at least eight forward speed ratios and one reverse.

(Office Action, pages 2-3)

Gaus' second continuous connection found by the Examiner interconnects carrier member 20 with ring gear member 22, as noted by the Examiner. Both carrier member 20 and ring gear member 22 are also continuously interconnected with ring gear member 21. Thus, Gaus does not meet the requirement of amended claim 6 for:

a second interconnecting member continuously interconnecting said second member of said first planetary gear set with said first member of said third planetary gear set; *wherein said second member of said first planetary gear set is not continuously connected with any other member of any of said planetary gear sets other than said first member of said third planetary gear set; wherein said first member of said third planetary gear set is not continuously connected with any other member of any of said planetary gear sets other than said second member of said first planetary gear set; . . .* (emphasis added)

For at least this reason, the Section 102(b) rejection of claims 6 and 14 is believed to be overcome.

Section 102(e) Rejections

The Examiner rejects claims 6 and 10-15 under Section 102(e) as anticipated by Ziemer. The Examiner finds that:

Ziemer discloses a transmission having an input shaft (1), and output shaft (2), first (RS1), second (RSA) and third (RSB, RS4, RS3) planetary gear sets having first, second and third coaxial members, the input shaft being continuously connected to a member (11) of the gear sets, the output shaft being continuously connected to a member (35) of the gear sets, a first continuous interconnection between the first member (15) of the first gear set and the first member (25a) of the second gear set, a second continuous interconnection between the second member (13) of the first gear set and a first member (21b) of the third gear set, a third continuous interconnection between the second member (23a) of the second

gear set and a second member (23b) of the third gear set and seven torque transmitting mechanisms (A-G) being engaged in combinations of two to establish at least eight forward speed ratios and one reverse.

(Office Action pages 3-4)

As stated by the Examiner, Zeimer's first continuous interconnection is between the first member (carrier member 15) of the Examiner-named first gear set RS1 and the first member (carrier member 25a) of the Examiner-named second gear set RSA. However, the first member 15 of the first gear set RS1 and the first member 25a of the second gear set RSA are also continuously connected with the carrier member 25b of the Examiner-named third planetary gear set (RSB, RS4, RS3). Thus, Zeimer does not meet the requirement of amended claim 6 for:

a first interconnecting member continuously interconnecting said first member of said first planetary gear set with said first member of said second planetary gear set; *wherein said first member of said first planetary gear set is not continuously connected with any other member of any of said planetary gear sets other than said first member of said second planetary gear set; wherein said first member of said second planetary gear set is not continuously connected with any other member of any of said planetary gear sets other than said first member of said first planetary gear set . . .*

The Section 102(e) rejection of claim 6 and of claims 10-15 which depend therefrom is believed to be overcome at least for this reason.

Conclusion

In light of the amendments to the claims and the arguments set forth above, the rejection under Section 102(b) and Section 102(e) are believed to be overcome. Remaining claims 6 and 10-15 are believed to be in condition for allowance along with allowed claims 1-5, which action is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick B. Usoro, et al.

By Jean M. McCarthy
Jean M. McCarthy
Reg. No. 54,300

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QUINN LAW GROUP, PLLC
39555 Orchard Hill Place, Ste. 520
Novi, Michigan 48375
Phone: 248-380-9300
Fax: 248-380-8968

On behalf of:

Kathryn A. Marra
GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION
Legal Staff Mail Code 482-C23-B21
P.O. Box 300
Detroit, Michigan 48265-3000